

As a well-respected leader, SFC Wise was an outstanding soldier who served his country well and proudly wore the uniform of the United States of America. He represented the best of our Armed Forces and the best of America—giving his life to protect the freedoms we all cherish. As a husband, father, son and brother, his loss will leave an incredible void that will be impossible to fill. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Traci; his children, Kallen, Luke and Ryan; his parents, Dr. Jean and Mary Wise; his brother, Marine Corps Cpl. Matthew Wise; his sister, Mary; and, the rest of his family and friends during this very difficult time.

Unfortunately, what made SFC Wise's death even more tragic is that just two short years ago, the Wise family also lost another son in Afghanistan—Jeremy Wise, who was SFC Benjamin Wise's brother. Former Navy SEAL Special Warfare Operator First Class Jeremy Wise, age 35, was part of the CIA's security detail at an outpost near Khost, Afghanistan, when he was killed on December 30, 2009, when a terrorist detonated a bomb at the facility killing seven Americans in the attack. America has now lost two outstanding patriots in the Wise family and both Benjamin and Jeremy will be deeply missed.

The United States of America remains a strong beacon for freedom and liberty around the world because of brave, honorable and dedicated service members like SFC Benjamin Wise and his brother, Jeremy. The Wise family has endured an incredible burden and made an extraordinary sacrifice on behalf of all Americans and we are forever thankful.

Today, I ask all Members of Congress to join me as we honor the life and legacy of Army Sergeant First Class Benjamin Wise, as well as each man and woman in our Armed Forces, and all of those in harm's way supporting their efforts, who give the ultimate sacrifice in service to this great country. I also ask that we recognize the sacrifice and burdens our military families endure in support of this great country. We owe them all our eternal gratitude.

A TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL BUTLER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Samuel Butler, the President of the Robeson County Firemen's Association, of Maxton, North Carolina, for his commitment to his community and as a dedicated man of public service. Mr. Butler proved himself to be a devoted and effective public servant, a man of great character, and a dedicated public servant. Tragically, he lost his life while protecting others on January 8, 2012. He was also a devoted father, grandfather, and dear friend, who will be dearly missed.

In addition to his service to the Evans Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, Mr. Butler was also a proud employee of the Campbell's Soup Company for over 29 years. Driven by the spirit of service and dedication to his community and its people, he was a board member of the Robeson County Fire

College and Robeson County Honor Guard, guiding future stewards and first responders to better serve the community. In recognition of his devotion, Mr. Butler was a candidate for the Robeson County Hero Society.

Mr. Butler, a volunteer fire fighter for over 20 years, was struck and killed by a vehicle while responding to an accident. He made the ultimate sacrifice to save those in danger. His passing is a significant and tragic loss to his family, his community, and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, may we never forget the goodness, humility, service, and character that defined the life of Samuel Butler. May God continue to bless his beloved wife, Brenda, and all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

IN RECOGNITION OF MAYOR DAVID W. SMITH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mayor David W. Smith who is retiring after serving 33 years as the Mayor of the city of Newark, California.

Mayor Smith began his career in 1967 after graduating from Michigan Technological University with a degree in Business Administration and Industrial Management. He began his career as a Plant Manager at Ethyl Corp. After working at the plant for ten years he developed an interest in public service. In 1976, he was elected to the Newark City Council. Just two years later, in 1978, he was elected Mayor of the city of Newark.

Mayor Smith is currently serving his 16th consecutive term as mayor, the most senior mayor currently serving in California. Additionally, he is also 2nd in mayoral seniority in the United States. During his service as Mayor, Smith was the Vice President of the Retail Division of Oatey Supply Chain Services from 1979 to 2006. More recently, he has served as the Executive Director of Ohlone College Foundation since 2006.

Mayor Smith's accomplishments during his tenure as Mayor are exemplary. He has displayed the highest level of public service to his citizens, and his commitment can be seen through the wide array of organizations and committees in which he was involved. He was a Trustee and Committee Chair of the United States Conference of Mayors, and was highly involved in the Arts Committee as well as the Education Committee. He was previously chair of the Alameda County Transportation Authority and the Tri-City Waste Management Authority, and was also President of the Alameda County Conference of Mayors. He is the currently the Chair of the Newark Redevelopment Agency, the Newark Disaster Council, and the Newark Community Development Advisory Committee.

Mayor Smith has received a myriad of awards for his outstanding accomplishments. He was honored as a Distinguished Alumni of Calumet High School, and an Outstanding Young Alumni of Michigan Technological University. He was selected as one of California's

Five Outstanding Young Men, and was named a Life Member of the United States Junior Chamber, a leadership and civic organization.

I join many others in saluting Mayor Smith for his commitment to excellence, thanking him for his exemplary service, and wishing him well on his retirement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,236,245,309,869.69. We've added \$10,434,840,134,575.41 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

RECOGNIZING MR. BENNIE DOTSON FOR HIS DEDICATION TO SERVING OTHERS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fine patriot and noble member of his community, Mr. Bennie Dotson. Mr. Dotson was born September 9, 1923, in Vicksburg, Mississippi. He is the younger of two children born to the late Mr. Ben and Mrs. Mary Dotson.

Mr. Dotson's early years of education began at Dunbar Elementary School in Warren County, Mississippi. He later attended Grange Hall Elementary School culminating with an eighth grade education.

At the age of 18, Mr. Dotson entered the United States Army and served in the European War. He received his basic training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi, after which, he served tours of duty in England, France, Belgium, and Germany.

After leaving the United States Army, Mr. Dotson worked at Anderson Tully Lumber Company in Vicksburg, Mississippi, where he retired after 45 years of service. Mr. Dotson has continued to serve as a lay member of Shady Grove Missionary Baptist Church for many years.

Mr. Dotson was happily married to his late wife of 57 years, Mrs. Lorraine Dotson, and together they raised one child, Ruby McDonald. He also has a host of nieces and nephews that love and care for him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Bennie Dotson for his dedication to our country and his commitment to serving others.